

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-09 OES-02 L-01 H-01 INR-07

PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 /044 W

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R 030845Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0367

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0617

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO PORG XF

SUBJECT: WHO-MAHLER ON MID-EAST ISSUES

REF: GENEVA 0364

1. SUMMARY. WHO DG MAHLER, CONFIDING TO U.S. EXBD MEMBER HIS CONCERN OVER GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR ORGANIZATION IF ARABS WERE TO TAKE SUCH DRASTIC ACTION AS TO ELIMINATE WHO HEALTH SERVICES TO ISRAEL AT FORTHCOMING WHA, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ALL PARTIES CONCERNED WOULD JOIN WITH HIM IN MODERATE APPROACH TO POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUES.

2. MAHLER TOLD US HE HOPED NEITHER ISRAEL NOR THE UNITED STATES WOULD PLAY A "DIVISIVE OR AGGRESSIVE" ROLE AT 28TH WHA. HE ADDED IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE (DO NOT REPEAT NOT DIVULGE) THAT HE WILL VISIT ALGERIA IN APRIL WHERE HE INTENDS SEEK ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD ASSUME A MODERATE POSTURE AT FORTHCOMING ASSEMBLY.

3. HE PLANS TAKE LINE WITH THEM THAT ORGANIZATION BELONGS TO MEMBER COUNTRIES WHO COULD, OF COURSE, DO WITH IT WHAT THEY WISHED. HOWEVER, ACTION TAKEN TO ELIMINATE WHO HEALTH SERVICES WHICH WOULD IN MAHLER'S OPINION, HAVE A PROFOUND AND DETERIOUS EFFECT ON HIS  
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ONGOING EFFORTS TO REINVIGORATE WHO AND GIVE IT

PROMISING NEW DIRECTIONS. HEALTH MINISTRIES WOULD, HE SURMISED, BE FAR MORE INCLINED TO RALLY TO SUPPORT WHO AS AN ORGANIZATION THAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES SHOWED THEMSELVES WILLING OR CAPABLE OF DOING AT UNESCO. SUCH ENLIGHTENED SELF-INTEREST MIGHT LEAD TO A MORE MODERATE APPROACH WHICH HE INTENDS TACTFULLY SUGGEST TO ALGERIANS.

4. IN THUS SHARING HIS SITUATION ESTIMATE ON A POLITICAL ISSUE, MAHLER HELPFULLY REVEALS IN CONCRETE TERMS HOW HE INTENDS USE HIS INFLUENCE TO PRESERVE INTEGRITY WHO, AND AT SAME TIME HELPS FURTHER CLARIFY CONCEPT OF "STRICT NEUTRALITY" THAT UNDERLAY HIS DECISION TAKE NO ACTION ON BELATED CONDITIONAL ISRAELI OFFER PERMIT WHO OBSERVERS VISIT OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (REFTEL). MAHLER ALSO APPEARS IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZE FACT THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT DIMINUTION U.S. SUPPORT WILL IMPAIR WHO ABILITY ACHIEVE HIS OBJECTIVES WHICH WE ENDORSE AS SOUND AND FORWARD-LOOKING. THIS TIMELY EXCHANGE OF VIEW SUGGESTS NEED FOR CAREFUL DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. STRATEGY AT 28TH WHA IF U.S. AND WHO ARE TO CONTINUE WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE HEALTH OBJECTIVES THEY BOTH NOW JOINTLY SEEK. DALE

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## Message Attributes

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